



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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September 26, 2003

**MONAHANS, TEXAS, MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR  
CARJACKING RESULTING IN DEATH**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced today that 24-year-old Travis James Harris was sentenced to life plus ten years in federal prison for carjacking resulting in death and use of a firearm during a crime of violence. In addition, Harris was sentenced this afternoon to 30 years in federal prison for firebombing the Monahans Municipal Building in June of 2002.

"Travis Harris earned every day of the life sentenced that he received this afternoon by brutally killing Paul Cenicerros during the robbery of his car and firebombing the Monahans Police Station with a Molotov Cocktail. Mr. Harris is an extremely dangerous man and our West Texas Community will be safer now that he is behind bars. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Cenicerros family," stated U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton.

On June 26, 2003, a federal jury convicted Harris of the carjacking and use of a firearm charges. At trial, testimony revealed that on Memorial Day weekend of last year, Paul John Cenicerros, an Odessa waiter, disappeared. His car, a red Mustang, was found some days later in Lubbock. In July 2002, Cenicerros's body was found in rural Midland County by an oilfield worker. He had been shot at least five times in the chest, and his body had been dragged from a road and covered with mesquite branches. Harris was found to be in possession of Cenicerros's cellular phone and car keys and investigators found Harris's DNA in the car. The gun that was used to kill Cenicerros was recovered in a ditch in Gaines County by a road crew, on one of the routes between Midland-Odessa and Lubbock. Bullets of the same three brands matching the shell casings found at the scene were recovered in a dumpster behind Harris's house in Monahans.

On April 3, 2003, Harris pled guilty to one count of arson of a building affecting interstate commerce and one count of use of a destructive device.

The cases were investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Odessa Police Department, Midland County Sheriff's Office, Texas Rangers, Monahans Police Department and the Texas Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory in Lubbock, Texas. They were prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Attorney Jeff Parras.

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